

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO USINFO WASHDC IMMEDIATE

SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0000

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL DURBAN

USUN MISSION NEW YORK 0000

USUN MISSION GENEVA 0000

UNCLAS PRETORIA 0001

USIA FOR IOP/M, IAA

LUSAKA (FOR EDMONDSON) IMMEDIATE

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJ: JOHANNESBURG PRESS ON RHODESIA, SOUTHERN AFRICA GENERAL DEC 30-31

SUMMARY: USA SUPPORT FOR IVOR RICHARD MISSION TO AFRICA; CONTINUING CONCERN RE PODGORNY AFRICA TRIP; BLACK EDITOR'S REVIEW OF LIKELY ATTITUDE TO RSA OF CARTER ADMINISTRATION. END SUMMARY.

1. REPORT FROM WASHDC IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE "THE STAR" DEC 30 SAID "KISSINGER IS CONTINUING TO PRESS RSA TO HELP BRING ABOUT MODERATE BLACK GOVT IN RHODESIA, EVEN THOUGH HE NOW ACCEPTS THAT HIS ORIGINAL FIVE POINT PLAN IS DEAD. "REPORT QUOTED "WELL PLACED UNCLASSIFIED

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OFFICIAL SOURCES" IN WASHDC SAYING KISSINGER WAS "DISAPPOINTED HIS OWN PROPOSALS HAVE COME TO NOTHING, BUT IS NOW SUPPORTING RICHARD'S MISSION WITH AS MUCH POWER AS HE STILL HAS IN HIS LAST THREE WEEKS IN OFFICE." REPORT CONTINUED: "AFTER SOME INITIAL DISAGREEMENT OVER THE PROCEDURE AND PACE OF THE GENEVA TALKS, USA AND UKG VIEWS ARE NOW IN CLOSE ALIGNMENT ... THE PLAN IS FOR BRITAIN TO TAKE A CAUTIOUS 'BALANCING' ROLE IN THE PROPOSED INTERIM GOVT

IN SALISBURY TO ASSURE BLACKS AND WHITES THAT THE ROAD TO INDEPENDENCE IS IRREVERSIBLE AND ORDERLY. RICHARD WILL DISCUSS ON HIS TRIP THE EXACT NATURE OF THE ROLE, WHICH IS EXPECTED TO INVOLVE AT LEAST A BRITISH RESIDENT COMMISSIONER AND PROBABLY SOME BRITISH CONTROL OVER SECURITY AND POLICE."

2. SAME PAPER EDITORIALIZED ON PODGORNY AFRICA TRIP AND POSSIBLE USA OPTIONS. "THE LONG, MEDDLESOME ARM OF SOVIET DIPLOMACY REACHES STEADILY TOWARDS SOUTHERN AFRICA'S HEARTLAND, POSING INCREASING DILEMMAS BOTH FOR THE LAST OF THE WHITE REGIMES AND FOR THE USA. SPOTLIGHTING THIS RENEWED INTEREST IN A TROUBLED CONTINENT COMES NEWS OF PODGORNY'S VISIT. HOW WILL WASHDC REACT? IN WINNING FRIENDS AND INFLUENCING POLICIES IN BLACK AFRICA, ITS POLICY TOWARDS RSA IS OF VITAL IMPORTANCE. HERE IT HAS THREE BASIC OPTIONS. THE FIRST IS THE 'AGGRESSIVE PURSUIT OF MAJORITY RULE' PROMISED BY ANDREW YOUNG. IT IS A POLICY NOT NECESSARILY ENDORSED ALL THE WAY BY OTHER KEY CARTER MEN. THE SECOND OPTION IS THAT EXPRESSED BY COLUMNIST JOE KRAFT. LIKE OTHER AMERICAN LIBERALS, HE SEES RSA AS 'ALMOST CERTAIN TO GO SMASH' AND HE SUGGEST THEREFORE THAT THE USA "WOULD BE FAR BETTER OFF STANDING ALOOF AND HELPING TO PICK UP THE PIECES. THE THIRD CHOICE FALLS BETWEEN THESE EXTREMES OF HOT AND COLD. IT IS A CONTINUATION OF THE KISSINGER POLICY OF 'CONSTRUCTIVE ENGAGEMENT' WITH THE USA BECOMING ACTIVELY INVOLVED AS A CATALYST FOR PEACEFUL CHANGE. IT IS A COURSE LESS LIKELY TO IMPRESS BLACK MILITANTS, BUT THE ONE WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE EMERGING OUT OF WASHDC IN THE INTERESTS OF ALL SOUTHERN AFRICANS. IT IS IN THE INTEREST OF BOTH RSA AND USA THAT THERE SHOULD BE PEACEFUL EVOLUTION RATHER THAN CIVIL WAR AND ECONOMIC CHAOS ON THIS SUBCONTINENT. BOTH SHOULD BE ACTIVELY ENCOURAGING PURPOSEFUL

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CHANGE RATHER THAN AGGRESSION. CERTAINLY THEY SHOULD NOT INDULGE IN PASSIVE PRAGMATISM."

3. AFRIKAANS PAPER "DIE TRANSVALER" DEC 31 FRONT PAGE HEADLINE SAID "RUSSIANS CHALLENGE CARTER ON RSA." REPORT FROM WASHDC BUREAU SAID PODGORNY VISIT WAS CHALLENGE TO USA "TO ACCELERATE THE PACE OF ITS POLICY IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. THE VISIT IS AIMED AT UNDERMINING THE BRITISH-AMERICAN INITIATIVE IN THIS PART OF THE WORLD. IT IS BEING RECOGNIZED IN WASHDC THAT RSA'S REPEATED WARNINGS OF THE DANGER OF SOVIET IMPERIALISM IN SOUTHERN AFRICA ARE NOT EXAGGERATED."

4. SAME PAPER EDITORIALIZED ON FORMATION OF NEW BLACK POLITICAL PARTY IN RHODESIA (ZUPO). "THIS IS A WELCOME MOVE TO FORM A MODERATE BLACK ORGANIZATION THAT COULD ENJOY THE SUPPORT OF MR SMITH. THEIR MANIFESTO OPPOSES INTI, IDATION OF YOUNG BLACKS BY TERRORISTS. THEY BELIEVE IN DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS, FREE ENTERPRISE AND MEMBERSHIP OF THE FREE WORLD. THESE NOTIONS MUST SOUND STRANGE TO EXTREMISTS LIKE MUZOREWA, NKOMO AND

MUGABE. MR SMITH HAS ALWAYS INDICATED WILLINGNESS TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE MORE RESPONSIBLE BLACK RHODESIANS. THE ONLY QUESTION IS WHETHER THE NEW PARTY WILL BE VIABLE ENOUGH TO ATTRACT URBAN SUPPORT."

5. IN YEAR-END REVIEW OF INTERNATIONAL EVENTS AFFECTING RSA, BLACK EDITOR OF SECOND LARGEST DAILY PAPER "THE WORLD" ALLUDED TO LIKELY USA POSTURE UNDER NEW ADMINISTRATION. EDITOR PERCY QOBOZA WROTE: "AS IF THIS COUNTRY DID NOT HAVE ENOUGH TROUBLES, THE AMERICAN VOTERS THREW OUT PRESIDENT FORD AND ELECTED JIMMY CARTER TO THE WHITE HOUSE. AS A SOUTHERNER WHO UNDERSTANDS THE STARK BRUTALITIES AND INTENSITIES OF RACISM, IT IS CLEAR HIS ADMINISTRATION WILL BE ROUGH ON RSA. INDEED, THE REPUTATIONS OF MEN HE HAS PLACED IN KEY ADMINISTRATION POSTS SUGGESTS THE NEXT FOUR YEARS WILL BE DIFFICULT ONES FOR THIS COUNTRY UNLESS WE CLIMB OFF THE RACIST BANDWAGON WE ARE ON NOW."

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Message Attributes

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